

**State Planning Office
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
Week ending January 4, 2008**

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan 8 Energy Resource Council Meeting

9:30 am – 11:30 am - Governor's Cabinet Room, Capitol Building

CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at (207) 287-5649 or donna.bradstreet@maine.gov

Jan 15 Land for Maine's Future Board Meeting

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm - Pine Tree State Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta

CONTACT: Aline Lachance at 287-1485 or aline.lachance@maine.gov

Jan 15 The Governor's Council on Maine's Quality of Place

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm - Board Room, Public Utilities Commission, 242 State Street, Augusta

CONTACT: Linda LaPlante at 287-6077 or Linda.c.laplante@maine.gov

DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Building code proposal vetted. Two public meetings on the State's building code proposal were held this week. About 25 people attended the Bangor meeting and, in Portland, 60-70 were in attendance. Local code enforcement officers made up the majority of the attendees both nights, but there were also representatives from designers and developers groups. Participants offered a wide range of comments on the proposal, which was developed in response to PL 2007, Resolve 46. An additional public meeting has been scheduled on January 9 in Presque Isle at the request of the Aroostook County code officers and city and town managers.

Written comments on the proposal will be accepted until January 11. For additional meetings and information, please see our website at

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/resolve46buildingcodes/index.php>. **CONTACT:** Sue Inches at 287-2989 or sue.inches@maine.gov or Amy Cole-Ives at 287-8052 or amy.cole-ives@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Resolve to Recycle! As we all begin to work on our new year's resolutions for 2008, here's a resolution that's easy to keep: Recycle. By recycling, we can reduce the environmental impacts of the products we use. Together we can create significant savings in the water and energy used in manufacturing

and reduce the resulting pollution. We can reduce fuel use, emissions, and production and transportation costs. Around the world, technologic and economic changes are making it easier than ever to recycle. Advances in processing equipment are simplifying how we sort materials. As recycling becomes more convenient, more Mainers are becoming recyclers. Perhaps you are already one of them. If not, why not resolve this New Year to recycle? To learn about recycling in Maine, visit www.mainerecycles.com. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov**

Maine Recycles 2008 calendar is on the way. Delayed by storms and holidays, the 2008 recycling calendars were mailed this week to schools, libraries, and municipal offices. This year's calendar salutes the state's reuse centers and adds a taste of the new recycling campaign. Over 3,000 were sent in the initial mailing, however, we expect requests to the office by letter, phone, and e-mail to see a total of 5,000 calendars gone in a short time. Go on-line at www.mainerecycles.com to request your calendar! **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

Ruth's Renewable Resources gets new home. After 16 years in Scarborough's Bessey School, Ruth's Reusable Resources acquired the former Unum Records Center in South Portland to become the largest center in the state. The center collects, displays, and distributes reusable materials, such as paper, books, fabrics, and supplies for use by teachers, parents, and others as tools for creative learning in classrooms and in the community. The former records center provides a truly extraordinary site with ample warehousing, a loading dock, and an orderly, friendly retail space.

About 150 guests attended their ribbon cutting ceremony on January 3. Congratulatory remarks were made by Ed Suslovic, Mayor of Portland, Senator Philip Bartlett, a representative from Unum, and Maine's Senator Susan Collins. Jody Harris and Bruce White of the State Planning Office attended. The project's success is directly the result of the support of Unum, as a corporate friend, the State Department of Education, and many other —please see their Web site at www.ruths.org. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov.**

Chebeague Island joins National Flood Insurance Program. The Town of Chebeague Island is Maine's newest participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as of December 31, 2007. Their participation makes homeowners eligible for flood insurance and makes Chebeague Island eligible for hazardous mitigation resources. The staff of the Maine Floodplain Management program assisted Chebeague Island by reviewing their floodplain ordinance and helping them with their application to the NFIP. **CONTACT: Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada at 287-8932 or brigitte.m.ndikum-nyada@maine.gov**

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM

LMF seeks new land conservation proposals. The Land for Maine's Future Board has issued a [new call for land conservation proposals](#). The deadline for applications is April 1, 2008.

The call for projects also includes water access projects, which can be entertained by the Board at any time (no deadline). A separate call for proposals on the Working Waterfront Protection Program will be issued early in January 2008. This call for proposals is the result of new funds approved the Legislature and citizens of Maine in November 2007. The Board will select project finalists at its July 2008 meeting. **CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or tim.glidden@maine.gov**

New proposal workbook is now available. The Land for Maine's Future program has updated its workbook for use by those seeking LMF funds. This is the seventh edition of the proposal workbook since the Land for Maine's Future Board initiated its funding program in 1988. The workbook contains vital information on a wide range of Land for Maine's Future topics. Please see the [LMF Proposal Workbook](#) on-line for more information. **CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or tim.glidden@maine.gov**